

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- 1-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently amended): A method of separating hydrocarbons from solids comprising the step of contacting the solids/hydrocarbon with a surfactant; wherein said surfactant is prepared by mixing aqueous hydrogen peroxide with coal, allowing the mixture to stand and separating the liquid fraction from the solid fraction, of one of claims 7 to 10, or produced by the method of one of claims 1 to 6.
12. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein the solids/hydrocarbon is contacted with the surfactant with no or mild agitation.
13. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein the contacting step is performed at between about 40°C and 80°C.
14. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the coal comprises low-rank coal.
15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the mixture is allowed to stand for at least about 12 hours.
16. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the hydrogen peroxide has a concentration of about 3% to about 6%.
17. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the low-rank coal comprises lignite.
18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the mixture comprises about 1 part lignite to about 3 parts aqueous hydrogen peroxide by volume.